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UNCLAS HARARE 000554

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AF/PDPA FOR DALTON, MITCHELL AND SIMS
NSC FOR JENDAYI FRAZER
LONDON FOR GURNEY
PARIS FOR NEARY
NAIROBI FOR PFLAUMER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL KPAQ KMDR ZI

SUBJECT: PRO-GOVERNMENT DAILY FAULTS ZIMBABWE'S
CONTINUED SUSPENSION FROM COMMONWEALTH

¶1. Under headline "Stayaways and sanctions will not solve our problems" the pro-government daily "The Daily Mirror" offered a March 18 editorial criticizing the Commonwealth for extending Zimbabwe's suspension, saying the move was "unwise" and "also dampens homegrown efforts to find a solution to our problems." Excerpts:

¶2. "The announcement by the Commonwealth Secretary General, Don McKinnon yesterday that the Commonwealth was renewing sanctions (sic) against Zimbabwe came as a shock to many. The decision seems to have been taken without consensus of African members of the Commonwealth, raising serious doubts about its validity. Although the hostility of white members of this group towards Zimbabwe, and President Mugabe in particular, is well known, this harsh measure was, without doubt, unwise. Not only does it go against the spirit of political reconciliation, which various eminent personalities from around the world have been trying to foster. It also dampens homegrown efforts to find a solution to our problems. . ."

SULLIVAN